

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Lab: Appropriation Adventure MAKEUP ASSIGNMENT**

**Remember: As per GHHS Policy, you have two days for each day absent to makeup assignments.**

### **What We Did in Class:**

Students worked in teams of eight with each student taking on the role of a senator or a lobbyist. Debating within those roles, students balanced the U.S. Federal Budget to eliminate the deficit. It is not possible for you to make up this roleplay activity, so you will learn similar information by watching a video then balancing the budget yourself.

### **Your Assignment:**

Watch the video <https://tinyurl.com/y267h95r> and answer the following

1. What is an Interest Group and how do they influence the “iron triangle”?
2. Where does the term lobbyist come from?
3. Identify two of the interest groups described in the video.
4. What is money from interest groups spent on?
5. Describe positive things that interest groups might do.
6. Describe negative things that interest groups might do.
7. How do you think interest groups might influence the federal budget?

(continued on back)

## Balance the Budget! Total Receipts must equal Total Spending!

<b><u>Simplified 2019 U.S. Federal Budget</u></b> <small>primary sources: Congressional Budget Office &amp; DataLab</small>	<b>2019</b>		<b>YOUR PROPOSED</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$ (in billions)</b>		<b>\$ (in billions)</b>	<b>% change</b>
Individual Income Taxes	1,700			
Social Security & Payroll Tax (employer withheld taxes)	1,300			
Corporate Income Taxes	230			
Excise Taxes (sin taxes)	87			
Customs Duties (foreign transactions)	69			
Estate & Gift Taxes	18			
Other Taxes & Earnings	96			
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>			
<b>Spending</b>	<b>\$ (in billions)</b>		<b>\$ (in billions)</b>	<b>% change</b>
Social Security	1,100		1,100	0.00%
Medicare, Medicaid	1,530		1,530	0.00%
National Defense & Homeland Security	726			
Net Debt Interest	345		345	0.00%
Transportation	146			
Education	95			
Veterans Benefits & Services	85			
Administration of Justice (prisons, borders, FBI)	72			
General Government (fiscal operations, legislative functions)	65			
Labor & Housing (unemployment, public affairs, planning)	53			
International Affairs	52			
Agriculture	49			
Natural Resources (NOAA, FWS, corp of engineers)	41			
General Science, Space & Technology	34			
Energy	7			
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>\$4,400</b>			

Budget amounts that are already printed into the "Your Proposed" column are called mandatory spending, because that spending is written into law and is unable to be changed in appropriation acts.

### Analysis Questions:

1. What role did the lobbyists play in influencing senators decisions about the budget?
2. Discuss the difficulties you had in achieving a balanced budget.
3. Why do you think the U.S. Federal Government does not have balanced budget every year?
4. What effects (if any) does an unbalanced budget have on the economic prosperity of the United States?
5. With Natural Resources comprising 0.009% of the federal budget, how do you think this reflects the priorities and ability to respond to environmental issues in the United States?